

Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting
Washington Hilton, Jefferson Room
Washington, DC
April 20, 2018

Call to Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Meeting being recorded
- Introductions

Opening Remarks by Dr. William Jenaway, CFSI Board of Directors

- Thank you for continued support of CFSI.
- Change in CFSI dinner format - Asking for feedback.
- Organized breakfast with the Pennsylvania delegation on the Hill.
- Sharp decline in Fire Caucus membership because many representatives will not be coming back next year - Retiring, will be voted out.
 - Need to work together to recruit new members.
- Steve Austin replacing Louis Amabili on the Board.

Reports

- **Acting Chair's Report — Chief Greg Cade**
 - Changing Congress - Need to engage new members to ensure active participation in the Fire Caucus.
 - Work to regain the level of active support we've had before compared to passive support that has become more common.
 - Need more than just the support of the individual representatives on the NAC but also the support of others within their companies.
 - Southwest flight/Las Vegas shootings - Examples of how firefighters are always ready to help, whether on duty or not.

Executive Director's Report — Bill Webb

- Thanks to all those that helped with the dinner - IFSTA, NFSA, Dennis Compton, etc.
- Call for proposals for seminars for next year - Explanation of the process.
- Explanation of the awards process.
- More marketing this year through social media, thanks to Sean Carroll and Steven Tramel.
- About 25 future leaders in attendance. Separate seminars tailored to younger generations.
- Need to make a stronger effort to get the younger generation involved to keep CFSI and all its efforts going.
- Continue to get them involved in seminars at future dinners.
- 2017 Task Group: conducted 4-5 meetings to think of ways to update the dinner program and seminars. Will reconvene after the 30th Annual Dinner to continue improving the program.
- Congrats to all the recipients of awards.
- Award videos posted on Facebook.
- Given the additional costs of videos, we will need to consider increasing registration cost for next year's program.

- Sponsorship opportunities.
- Fundraising opportunities
 - Changes to Associates Club - Lower level added for \$10, new lapel pins.
 - Christmas Ornament - Will produce 2,500.
 - \$20 each. Discount for bulk orders.
- Special thank you to Sylin Bynoe, Vince DiFilippo, and Bill Kehoe for all their help.
- Dates for 2019 Dinner Symposium: April 24-25.

Legislative Report — Sean Carroll

- Programmatic:
 - Thank you to the Programmatic Subcommittee and panelists for all of their help.
 - 41 individual speakers.
 - 13 seminars.
 - Average attendance at the seminars was 48 per session.
 - 2017 average attendance was 40 per session.
 - CFSI will convert all of the presentations to PDFs and share a link to the them.
 - In the next few weeks we will convene the Programmatic Subcommittee to review the 2018 program (including the results of the survey) and beginning planning for the 2019 call-for-proposals.
- Legislative:
 - Several legislative victories this Congress -
 - FIRE/SAFER/USFA reauthorization unanimously approved by both chambers.
 - Fiscal Year 2018 increase in funding for those programs.
 - Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act and LOSAP bill were included in the tax reform package.
 - Portion of Disaster Recovery Reform Act included in the omnibus, incentivizing states to about state-wide model building codes.
 - Still more work to do:
 - Next week the Senate HELP Committee will be marking-up the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.
 - House will be taking up the FAA Reauthorization, which includes the remaining provisions of the DRRRA.
 - Will continue to focus on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations;
 - Working with other organizations, asking for \$405m each for FIRE and SAFER.
 - 191 members of the House sent a bipartisan letter to the House Appropriations Committee supporting this request.
 - Making progress on Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act.
 - Fortunate that we have 38 national fire service organizations willing to work together to move our agenda forward
 - Important to continue to do so to maintain our success.

Presentation by Dr. Daniel Kaniewski, Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Responding to major natural disasters after just being sworn into his position - hurricanes, wildfires, etc.

- During Maria, there were 32 open disasters in the United States, with FEMA personnel at all sites
 - Stretched thin.
- Example of logistical challenges: Puerto Rico being over 1,000 miles off the coast of mainland USA
 - Needing the private sector, NGO, state and local institutions to help fill the gaps in logistical challenges.
- Three main principles of Five Year Strategic Plan: Fostering a culture of preparedness, Readiness for catastrophic disasters, Reducing Complexity of FEMA programs (Attempts to make it less bureaucratic).
 - Federally supported, state managed, locally executed.
- FEMA is not a first responder - the true first responders are the individuals on the scene right as the disaster occurs
 - Need to impart the knowledge we as first responders know to those individuals so they can protect themselves as well.
- Financial preparedness: Cash during emergencies...Insurance is the best recovering tool
 - Insurance will provide more money for recovery than FEMA can.
- **Question from Dennis Compton:** Will there be some liaison capability from FEMA to a state/local government that has showed incompetence to help them do the job of handling disaster?
 - Answer: In the future we hope to build the states capacity to staff smaller presidentially declared disasters. (The GAO found that 80% of all disasters are below \$41 million). The federal government would continue to fund, but the states would manage the recovery process. We are calling this “Federally supported, State managed, locally executed.”
- **Question from Jim Estep:** Regarding Houston, TX flooding, what happened to the individuals who suffered flooding from dams?
 - Answer: There should have been more private sector communication. The decision wasn't FEMA's - What could've been done? Insurance, flood insurance. A lot of houses that flooded were outside the floodplain and didn't have insurance. Any home can flood.
- **Question from Ken LaSala:** Is there discussion with the insurance industry about this plan? Hurricane Katrina showed that insurance doesn't always follow through.
 - Answer: There was a loss of credibility in the insurance industry after Katrina; Insurance companies need to come together to realize it is on them to make things full; Putting greater responsibility on them.
- **Question from Tom Weber:** Regarding the replacement of electric grid in Puerto Rico following Maria; Stafford Act does not allow a replacement, just to harden it
 - Answer: All that FEMA has done so far is emergency work/emergency repairs; Very fragile temporary repairs.
 - Government has to decide if grid will be privatized or stay public. Current law states that grid should be built back to previous state but also built up to code which will probably make it better than before.
 - Mitigation grants can be provided to the governor if he wishes to harden grid.
- **Question from Chris Neal:** What does it look like, at a practical level, for our activities to support your vision of preparedness.

- Answer: There are advocates for the fire service in FEMA. Will continue to support and ask your continued support in spreading FEMA's message.

Presentation by Jon Adler & Hope Janke, Bureau of Justice Assistance

- **Jon Adler:** Served 26+ years in federal law enforcement
 - Matching circumstances of fallen first responders to the criteria set up by laws concerning benefits; the "dark side" of serving and protecting first responders.
 - Can't approve every claim even though we want to.
 - James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act passed.
 - Finalizing the final rule that adopted the criteria to recognize the heroes of 9/11 exposed to toxins that have triggered cancer.
- **Hope Janke:** Approach every claim with a mindset of "How can we approve this?"
 - PSOB Improvement Act 2017: Need to be reporting how long every claim takes and what information is requested.
 - Limitations on payments does not apply for PSOB claims unless there is evidence.
 - Report every 180 days covering information about PSOB claims and their families, and which agencies they are serving.
 - Significant reduction of death claims - Reduction of line-of-duty deaths?
 - 110 Death claims for 9/11 exposure; 15 Disability claims for 9/11.
 - October 10, 2017: PSOB 2.0 released; More user-friendly way to submit claims.

Presentation by Mike Worrell, FirstNet

- History of FirstNet...born out of 9/11.
- Partnership with AT&T. Private-public partnership.
- Ensure that services provided by AT&T meet the needs of public safety.
- December 28, 2017: All 50 states plus DC and 6 territories opted in to use FirstNet.
- Coverage for first responders.
- 25-year agreement.
- Milestones
 - First voice-over LTE phone call this year
 - Cybersecurity center, Customer service line
 - Location services
 - Final Operational capability will launch in 2022

Presentation by Jim Bugel, AT&T

- FCC report emphasizing how important wireless and broadband connection is to all aspects of society but public safety will not get broadband spectrum - public safety responded and explained the need for a dedicated public safety broadband network.
- FirstNet born out of the need to have this network.
- FirstNet is affiliated with the government, under the Department of Commerce; AT&T was contracted to build a public safety network.
 - FirstNet is the 5th wireless carrier in the country and is dedicated exclusively to public safety.
- Coverage: Starting in December 2017, task order enabled to create network; Want to utilize municipal, public facilities when possible.

- Will get it done in less than 36 months.
- Devices: Constant advancements, significant improvements.
- Price: Cut prices for public safety in every market by 15%-25%.
 - Price is not the issue. Cost of wireless broadband service decreased significantly.
 - Priority preemption: Able to get calls/texts through when commercial networks are jammed.
- Other companies claim to have the same thing, but they don't.
- AT&T on board to help maintain and develop FirstNet for 25 years.
- **Question from Dennis Compton:** What is the current timeframe for voice capabilities to FirstNet?
 - Answer: Voice already on FirstNet, but not mission critical. Mission critical voice standards should be implemented into the network by end of this year. It will be offered in the roll out cycle that is coming.
- **Question from Ken LaSala:** Regarding current fight on the Hill to prevent public safety from getting kicked off the T-band; Encourage firefighters to continue investing in land mobile radio
 - Answer: FirstNet is not intended to be a replacement, but an augmentation of LMR.

Subcommittee Reports

- Ethics — Doug Aiken
 - No reports
- Programmatic — Greg Cade
 - Covered in Sean's Report
- Fundraising — Bobby Halton
 - No report
- Membership — Dennis Compton
 - Initial discussions with some organizations for membership but they have not moved forward yet
- Resolutions — Steve Austin
 - Austin's last report
 - Asked to help find a new Resolutions chair
 - Roger Krupp: Assuming position as official IAAI rep
 - Submitting resolutions for the fall meeting
 - Sean Carroll will send deadlines out

Election of Officers

- For Position of Chair:
 - Greg Cade
 - Nominated by Dennis Compton
 - Unanimous vote in favor
- For Position of Vice Chair
 - Ron Siarnicki
 - Nominated by Tony O'Neill
 - Unanimous vote in favor

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- None

Adjournment

Meeting Attendance:

Steve Austin, CFSI Board of Directors
Preet Bassi, CPSE
Greg Cade, NFPA
Sean Carroll, CFSI
Dennis Compton, IFSTA
Robert Cumberland, CVVFA
David Durstine, FAMA
Diane Eggerman, CCFS
Jim Estopp, CFSI Board of Directors
David Finger, NVFC
Eriks Gabliks, NAFTD
Skip Gibson, ISO
John Granby, FEMSA
Louis Guerrazzi, SFPE
Craig Hannan, IFSTA
Bill Jenaway, CFSI Board of Directors
Steve Kerber, UL
Roger Krupp, IAAI
Ken LaSala, IAFC
Rich Marinucci, FDSOA
Candice McDonald, CVVFA
Shannon Meissner, IAFF
Frank Mort, IAFA
Mike Natchipolsky, FireRescue1
Stuart Nathan, NFBA
Chris Neal, CFSI Board of Directors
Tony O'Neill, Pro-Board
Ryan Pietzsch, VFIS
Vickie Pritchett, NFSA
Shane Ray, NFSA
Randy Roxson, USA Fire Sprinkler
Alan Sactor, CCFS
Tim Sendelbach, Firehouse
Ron Siarnicki, NFFF
Debbie Sobotka, CPSE
Bill Spencer, NASFM
Seth Statler, NFPA
Addington Stewart, IABPFF
Phil Stittleburg, IFE-USA Branch
Michael Swain, CCFS

Giff Swayne, CFSI Board of Directors

Esmey Vergel, CFSI

Terry Victor, SimplexGrinnell

Ray Walker, IFMA

Bill Webb, CFSI

Tom Weber, ISO

Tom Zimmerman, IAWF

Guests

Jon Adler, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Jim Bugel, FirstNet Built by AT&T

Hope Janke, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Dan Kaniewski, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Mike Worrell, FirstNet

Don Bliss, NFPA

Paul Brooks, IFE-USA Branch

Tom DeMint, ISFSI

Al Gillespie, FirstNet Association

Mark Kreutzer, NAEFO

Joseph Minogue, NFFF

Ernie Rojahn, PA Fireman